

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application :

1. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) comprising:

a digital musical instrument (3, 14, 24, 41) having a plurality of control members (42, 44, 45, 46) including at least one limited state (ON/OFF) control member (44) and at least one dynamic range state control member (42, 45, 46) including at least one user-activated source of a musical note, wherein a state of each of the plurality of control members is selectable by a user;

a central control unit (2, 12, 22) having a store of digital media including digital audio files stored thereon and a suite of software for assigning one of the digital audio files to the at least one limited state control member, for interpreting the user-selected state of the plurality of control members (42, 44, 45, 46) in order to select, open and render the assigned digital audio files from the store of the digital media, and for assigning a musical note to the at least one user-activated source in accordance with a user-selected digital audio file, the assigned digital audio file being selectable by a user by activating the ON state of the corresponding at least one limited state control member;

a control unit associated with the digital musical instrument (3, 14, 24, 41) and adapted to communicate with the central control unit, the control unit having:

a CPU ~~and a sensing means~~ for identifying and monitoring the user-selected state of the plurality of control members (42, 44, 45, 46), the control unit having means for communicating , the control unit being adapted to communicate the current each user-selected state of the plurality of control members (42, 44, 45, 46) to the central control unit (2, 12, 22) and means for communicating between the central control unit and the CPU; and

~~the sensing means comprising~~ a plurality of independent, uncoupled transducers, wherein each transducer is associated with and configured to monitor one

of the at least one user-activated source of a musical note and to convert activation of the one of the at least one user-activated source into electrical signals associated with the corresponding assigned musical note and with the user-selected state of the plurality of control members, each of which monitors the activation of a separate dynamic range state control member (42, 45, 46).

2. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the independent, uncoupled transducers are selected from a group of electrical, optical, pressure, movement, magnetic and piezo-electric transducers.

3. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 2, wherein the independent, uncoupled transducers are piezo-electric transducer is transducers selected from a group consisting of piezo-electric crystal transducers, piezo-electric ceramic transducers and piezo-electric film transducers.

4. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital musical instrument (3, 14, 24, 41) is a guitar/guitar type device.

5. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one user-activated source of a musical note is a string a number of the dynamic range state control members (42, 45, 46) are strings (42) of a stringed instrument (3, 14, 24, 41), each string of the stringed instrument being associated with one of the plurality of independent, uncoupled transducers.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one dynamic range state control member (42, 45, 46) [[is]] includes a foot pedal.

8. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~one or each~~ the foot pedal is monitored by a potentiometer.

9. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 7, wherein activation of the foot pedal dynamically modifies a variable control ~~such as volume, pan or special effect parameter controls.~~

10. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the central control unit (2, 12, 22) has a visual display unit (V.D.U.) and the suite of software has a graphical user interface (G.U.I) displayable on the V.D.U.

11. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 10, wherein the control unit of the digital musical instrument (3, 14, 24, 41) has a control panel (48) comprising a plurality of limited state control members (44), namely switches for navigating through the G.U.I. of the software suite.

12. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 11, wherein the central control unit (2, 12, 22) has memory for storing user assignments of digital media against specific control members (42, 44, 45, 46), the memory being accessible by a software module of the software suite in response to activation of a control member (42, 44, 45, 46) or by activation of a combination of one or more limited state or dynamic range state control members (42, 44, 45, 46) to open, render, modify, adjust, add effects, change parameters and change controls of the rendered digital media.

13. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein indicators are provided on the digital musical instrument (3, 14, 24, 41) and are controllable by software on the central control unit (2, 12, 22) in response to an assignment of digital media against specific control members (42, 44, 45, 46) by a user, the indicators being provided to show the user which of the dynamic range state control members (42, 45, 46) have been assigned to produce an audio/visual output if activated.

14. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of light emitting diodes (LED), each LED being proximate to one of the at least one user-activated source of a musical note, wherein each LED proximate to the one of the at least one user-activated source associated with the assigned digital audio file is energized in response to a user selecting the assigned digital audio file. ~~claim 13, wherein the indicators are a plurality of light emitting diodes disposed on~~

~~the digital musical instrument (3, 14, 24, 41) below each string (42), each L.E.D. being associated with one string (42).~~

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein between one and sixteen limited state (on/off) control members (44) and between one and twelve dynamic range state control members (42, 45, 46) are provided.

17. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein each control member (42, 44, 45, 46) is associatable with any file stored in the store of the central control unit (2, 12, 22).

18. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least some of the digital audio files are recorded instrument notes of a plurality of stringed instrument types (3, 14, 24, 41).

19. (Currently Amended): An interactive multimedia apparatus (1, 11, 21) as claimed in claim [[1]] 5, wherein the store further comprises a chord and scale store of digital media containing the note associations for a wide range of defined chord and scale sequences, the store also defining the correct note associated with each string position for the selected chord or limited scale sequence so that the notes are played in the correct sequence when the strings (42) are strummed up or down.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) An interactive multimedia apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the variable control is one of a volume, pan or special effect parameter control.